

March 2008

Sheridan Co. FSA Office
119 N. Jackson
Plentywood, MT 59254
406-765-1550

County Committee

Gordon French	Chair
Kevin Wilson	Vice Chair
Jody Lagerquist	Member
Ellen Sedgwick	Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

Donna Hilyard, CED	ext. 102
Donelda Buckalew, PT	ext. 105
Karen Budd, PT	ext. 104
Kathy Gray, PT,	ext. 100
Josie Johnson, PT,	ext. 109
Marcia Rice, PT,	ext. 112
Michael Sandoval, PT	ext. 110
Randy Stadstad, Field	ext. 103
Stacy Buckley, Loan Mgr.	ext. 111

Dates to Remember:

March 17: DEADLINE to obtain NAP coverage on uninsurable crops for 2008.

March 17 – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2007 spring-seeded crops

March 31: DEADLINE to apply for loan/LDP on 2007 crop wheat, barley, canola, crambe, flaxseed, honey, oats, rapeseed.

April 1 – Deadline for payment limitation changes

April 1 – NAP pull-off date for livestock on NAP crops intended for seed.

May 1 – NAP pull-off date for livestock on NAP hay acres

June 2 - Final loan/LDP availability date for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard, safflower, soybeans, small chickpeas, sunflowers harvested in 2007

Ongoing: SIGNUP for the Livestock Compensation, Livestock Indemnity, and Crop Disaster Programs



Sheridan County FSA Newsletter

NAP Deadline – March 17

Contact person – Marcia Rice

The sales closing date for coverage on all Noninsurable (NAP) crops except value loss and honey is **Monday, March 17, 2008**. Examples of NAP crops that have been grown in Sheridan County are oats hay, barley hay, pea hay, grass hay, crambe, camelina, sweet corn, onions, pinto beans, potatoes, soybeans, and sunflowers.

An administrative service fee is required to be paid before the 3/17/08 deadline. The fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county or \$300 per producer per county, not to exceed \$900 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Service fees may be waived for limited-resource producers. Payment of the service fee does not guarantee coverage since there are other eligibility requirements that must also be met. Please check with the county office for more information.

NAP Pull Off Date: Each FSA County Committee determines the date when livestock must be removed from NAP hay acres each spring. The date determined in Sheridan County is May 1, 2008. The pull off date for crops intended for grass seed is April 1 in all counties.

Final Loan/LDP Availability is March 31

Contact person – Josie Johnson

March 31 is the final loan/LDP availability date for 2007-crop Barley, Canola, Flaxseed, Oats, Rapeseed, Crambe and Wheat. At this time, there are no LDP rates available on the listed crops.

Loan rates for 2008 crops are not available at this time.

Mixed commodities (like barley/peas or oats/peas) harvested as hay or silage are not eligible for an LDP (loan deficiency payment).

A commodity planted as a nurse crop with alfalfa may be eligible for an LDP if a full seeding is planted and the commodity is reported as the intended use for grain or forage. The County Committee may require documentation to support the seeding rate.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup

Contact persons – Marcia Rice

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Producers Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP. The percent of loss will be calculated on the higher of your APH or the county average yield. You may not have had enough of a loss to qualify for a crop insurance payment, but you may qualify for a CDP payment.

A signup deadline has not been established yet. Signup for quality losses will be announced at a later date.

Livestock Disaster Program Signup

Contact person – Karen Budd

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock feed losses, additional feed costs, and livestock deaths caused by natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007.

To be eligible for LIP and LCP, an owner or contract grower's livestock must have been located in an eligible county between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007.

Livestock producers incurring feed or livestock losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years may select only one year in which to receive assistance.

LCP details....

LCP compensates livestock producers for grazing losses due to a natural disaster to native range or improved pastures occurring between January 1 and December 31, 2006 (Sheridan Co is not eligible for 2005 or 2007 grazing losses).

You'll need to provide us with the number of livestock you had on January 1, 2006 and that grazed in 2006, and be able to identify all pasture acres on aerial maps. Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the number of livestock for grazing in 2006 due to the natural disaster.

Eligible livestock include beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine that were maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation and were physically located in a disaster county on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period.

An eligible livestock producer had to have legal ownership of or cash or share leased eligible livestock on January 1, 2006; suffered an eligible feed loss as a result of an eligible disaster event during 2006; and is one of the following: a citizen of, or legal resident alien in, the United States (including entities such as corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, and trusts), any Native American tribe, any Native American organization or entity chartered under the Indian Reorganization Act, any economic enterprise under the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

LIP Details....

To be eligible for LIP, the owner's livestock must have died in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event after Jan. 1, 2005 and before Dec. 31, 2007.

Applicants must provide adequate proof that the eligible livestock deaths occurred in an eligible county as a direct result of an eligible disaster event during the applicable disaster period.

Supporting documents must show evidence of loss, current physical location of livestock in inventory, and location of the livestock at the time of death. The quantity and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the eligible disaster event may be documented by purchase records, veterinarian records, bank or other loan papers and any other documents verifying the death of the livestock.

More information on the LCP and LIP programs is available at the FSA Office.

Consistency is key!

To be eligible for USDA programs, please ensure you are consistent in the way you are presenting your operation to all USDA agencies, crop insurance, grain buyers, and crop input suppliers. For example, if you have signed up for FSA program benefits as Joe Farmer, please sell your grain, carry crop insurance, and buy inputs as Joe Farmer. If you participate with FSA as Joe Farmer, but you sell grain and have crop insurance as Joe Farmer Corporation, you may not be eligible to receive payments. If this difference is found after you have already received benefits, you may be required to repay them. When in doubt, ask your county office!

2008 Wool Loan/LDP Deadline

Contact person - Josie Johnson

County offices can accept and process 2008-crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt Loan and LDP requests **through March 15, 2008** (that is the deadline at this time, due to the Farm Bill debate). Because March 15, 2008, falls on a Saturday, 2008-crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts requests must be postmarked or faxed on or before March 15, 2008. Beneficial Interest Exception: If wool, mohair, and unshorn pelt producers have lost beneficial interest in the 2008 crop wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts before issuance of this notice, County Offices shall use the LDP rate in effect on the date beneficial interest was considered lost. Note: The 2008 crop year wool and mohair loan rates will remain unchanged from the 2007 crop loan rates.

County Committee Election Complete

The County Committee election process is complete for 2008, and Jody Lagerquist was elected to serve a 3-year term on the committee. He replaces David Friedrich who served nine years. Ellen Sedgwick replaces Ardelle Hart as advisor to the committee. Ardelle served for 10 years on the committee. Welcome to Jody and Ellen!

A big "thank you" goes out to Dave and Ardelle for their service on the County Committee. Their knowledge of farming and ranching was a valuable asset to the committee, the office, and our producers. We appreciate everything they did for FSA and Sheridan County's farming and ranching community!

Emergency Loans Available

Contact Richland County 406-422-2103

Sheridan, Daniels, Roosevelt, Valley, McCone, and Richland Counties are eligible for FSA emergency loans due to a Secretarial Disaster Designation for the Fort Peck Reservation resulting from hail damage, high winds, and excessive moisture from severe storms that occurred 6/7/07 through 7/31/07. Please contact the Richland County FSA Office at 406-433-2103 for further information or to apply for an emergency loan by 6/2/08.

Farm Loans

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Rural youth loans, Beginning Farmer and Rancher loans, and assistance for socially disadvantaged persons are also available. For details, please contact the Farm Loan division at the Richland County FSA Office, 406-433-2103.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Contact person - Josie Johnson

Low cost loans for storage facilities are available for producers to build or remodel farm storage facilities for a variety of commodities. [The interest rate changes each month.](#)

Farm storage facility loans are available for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities. Eligible facilities include new conventional-type bins or cribs, and new and remanufactured oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is 85 percent of the net cost of the storage or handling equipment, up to \$100,000.



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SHERIDAN COUNTY FSA OFFICE
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PLENTYWOOD, MT 59254

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Important Dates to Remember

March 17: Deadline to obtain NAP coverage on uninsurable crops
March 31: Deadline to apply for loan/LDP on certain 2007 crops
April 1 – Deadline for payment limitation changes
April 1 – NAP pull-off date for livestock on NAP crops intended for seed

Timely report any farm owner or operator changes, share changes, entity changes, owned and/or leased land changes, etc. Farm payments are dependent on correct farm records! Have you deeded any land to a trust for estate planning purposes? If so, you need to notify us, because we have to carry the trust as the landowner. It is also important that any change in the producer's bank account, such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly if you receive payments via direct deposit.

CRP contracts being sent out: We are revising all of the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) contracts with the acreage shown on the new maps. The revised contracts are being sent out, and they must be signed and returned to the FSA Office within 60 days of notification or they will be terminated. If a contract is terminated, all payments made on that contract must be repaid with interest from the date of the original payment. If you have any questions, please call the office!

Montana Couples Can Receive Estate Planning Incentive: The first 40 couples who work through an estate planning process by June 1, 2008 can receive \$100 off of any follow-up attorney fees as part of a free Web-based program for young and old farm and ranch couples offered by Montana State University (MSU) Extension. For further information, log on to <http://www.nextgeneration.montana.edu> and view the cover letter or contact Marsha Goetting at 406/994-5695 or goetting@montana.edu.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Donna Hilyard, CED, at 119 N. Jackson, Plentywood, MT 59254; phone 406-765-1550 ext. 102; or email at donna.hilyard@mt.usda.gov.